

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9862

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN SU

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORT TO SPEAK IN GENERAL DEBATE

1. SITUATION AS OF 7:00 PM ADJOURNMENT OF GA PLENARY ON 4 OCT IS AS FOLLOWS: AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, CREDENTIALS COMITE HAS TRANSMITTED TO PLENARY REPORT ON SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS WHICH NOTES THAT MOVE TO REJECT SA CREDENTIALS WAS DEFEATED 4-5-0, AND THAT THEREAFTER, ON A US PROPOSAL, COMITE VOTED 5-4-0 TO "ACCEPT THE CREDENTIALS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA AS BEING IN ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 27 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE." THIS REPORT WILL BE BEFORE PLENARY WHEN IT RESUMES 10:30 AM 5 OCT.

2. CONFLICTING RJMORS AS TO INTENTIONS OF NON-ALIGNED CENTER AROUND (A) WORST POSSIBILITY THAT SYRIA WILL MOVE OUTRIGHT TO REJECT SA CREDENTIALS AND (B) LESS LIKELY POSSIBILITY THAT MOTION WILL BE MERELY TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT (OR, TO REJECT) CREDENTIALS COMITE'S REPORT. AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING COURSE OF LONG PLENARY SUSPENSION THAT FOLLOWED MOBUTU STATEMENT AT BEGINNING OF PM SITTING, WE WERE TOLD BY UNDER SYG'S MORESE AND STAVROPOULOS

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THAT PRESIDENT BENITES INTENDED IN EVENT OF EITHER SYRIAN

MOTION TO RULE THAT THE MOTION WOULD, IF ACCEPTED BY GA, AMOUNT TO A SEVERE CENSURE OF SA; HE WOULD, HOWEVER, THEN CALL ON FONMIN MULLER TO SPEAK. THATE BENITES/MORSE/STAVROPOULOS HOPE IS THAT NON-ALIGNED WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THIS SCENARIO BUT DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS BETWEEN VARIOUS AFRICAN AND ARAB DELS REVEALS THIS IS LITTLE MORE THAN A HOPE. (COMMENT: FROM PROCEDURAL CONTEXT, A BENITES RULING OF TIS CHARACTER WOULD MAKE SENSE IF SYRIAN MOTION WERE MERLY TO REFUSE TO ADOPT THE CC'S REPORT BUT WOULD SEEM TO STAND MUCH LESS CHANCE OF SURVIVAL IF A MOTION TO REJECT SA CREDENTIALS HAD BEEN ADOPTED.)

3. AMB SCHAUFELLE AND STAFF SPENT GREATER PART OF AFTERNOON SUSPENSION IN EFFORT TO HAVE MATTER BROUGHT BEFORE PLENARY IN MOST FAVORABLE POSSIBLE LIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY URUGUAYAN CHAIRMAN OF CREDENTIALS COMITE, PERMREP GIAMBRUNO, WHO HANDLED CC SESSION EXTREMELY WELL, HAS SAID HE WISHES TO FOLLOW MOST RECENT PRECEDENT IN WHICH CC CHAIRMAN DOES NOT HIMSELF INTRODUCE CC REPORT BEFORE PLENARY BUT GA PRESIDENT DOES SO. (GIAMBRUNO IS PREPARED TO SPEAK AGAINST SYRIAN MOTION IN CAPACITY AS URUGUAYAN REP, HOWEVER.)

4. UK DEPUTY PERMREP JAMIESON SAID BRITISH WOULD BE UNWILLING TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVES SINCE THEY ARE NOT CC MEMBER; NETHERLANDS PERMREP FACK SAID HI INSTRUCTIONS FORBID HIM FROM TAKING ANY INITIATIVE WHATEVER AS TO SOUTH AFRICA. BOTH INDICATED THEY INTEND TO SPEAK ON SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE ALONG LINES PARALLEL TO US SHOULD NEED ARISE. WE ALSO ASKED BRITISH AND FRENCH FOR THEIR VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING AN ICJ OPINION ON THE MATTER. BRITISH SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE USEFUL SINCE REFERENCE TO ICJ WOULD ONLY WORSEN OUR VOTING POSITION GIVEN CHARACTER OF THE ISSUE; IN ANY EVENT NON-ALIGNED WOULD NOT AGREE THAT SA SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAL UNTIL ICJ WERE TO DELIVER AN OPINION. FRENCH THOUGHT REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY PROCEEDING WOULDNOT GET OFF THE GROUND; THERE WERE LESS VOTES TO GO TO THE HAGUE THAN TO UPHOLD THE SHARED POSITION THAT A FREE SPEECH QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE IS AT ISSUE.

5. WE MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT DURING AM PLENARY WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTH AFRICAN PERMREP VON HIRSCHBERG, AND WITH DEPUTY PERMREP STEWART WHO WAS PRESENT AT CC MEETING AND WHO THANKED US FOR OUR ROLE IN CC. ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE PRESENT NEITHER ASKED FOR ANY PARTICULAR ACTION DURING PM SUSPENSION.

6. WE WILL REVIEW THIS MATTER FRIDAY AM WHEN IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PULL TOGETHER COMMENTS MADE DURING COURSE OF THE SECRETARY'S DINNER.

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